

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:

a variable display device for variably displaying symbols associated with an award;

a front display device disposed in front of the variable display device, the front display device including:

a display window for displaying the symbols of the variable display device;

a transparent liquid crystal display panel for displaying an image for effect while transparently displaying the symbols of the variable display device;

a light guiding plate disposed between the transparent liquid crystal display panel and the variable display device, the light guiding plate for guiding light from a lateral of the light guiding plate to a rear side of the transparent display panel, the light having been emitted from a light source;

a rear holder for holding the transparent liquid crystal display panel and the light guiding plate; and

an illumination part disposed at a rear side of the rear holder, wherein:

the light guiding plate and the rear holder are provided with openings, respectively, at a position corresponding to the display window of the front display device, the openings for transparently displaying the symbols of the variable display device, within the display window of the front display device;

~~wherein the light guiding plate is made up of a light transparent panel, the light guiding plate forming an opening in an area in which the symbols on the variable display device are displayed through the transparent liquid crystal display panel so~~

~~as to decrease obstacles between the transparent liquid crystal display panel and the variable display device in order to ensure visibility of the symbols variably displayed on the variable display device; and~~

~~a lens cut for guiding the light emitted from a light source which is provided lateral of the light guiding plate to a rear side of the transparent display panel is formed at a portion other than the opening of the light guide.~~

the illumination part illuminates the display window of the front display device through the openings of the light guiding plate and the rear holder, and illuminates the symbols variably displayed on the variable display device;

the front display device displays the image for effect on a portion other than the display window, with the light guided by the light guiding plate, the image being displayed on the transparent liquid crystal display panel; and

the front display device displays the image for effect and variably displays the symbols within the display window by illumination of the illumination part, the image for effect being displayed on the transparent liquid crystal display pane, the symbols being displayed on the variable display device.

21. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine according to claim 20, further comprising:

a diffusion sheet disposed between the transparent liquid crystal display panel and the light guiding plate, the diffusion sheet for equalizing the light to be emitted to the transparent liquid crystal display panel by diffusing the light guided by the light guiding plate, the diffusion sheet provided with an opening for displaying the symbols of the variable display device within the display window of the front display device, at

a position corresponding to the opening of the light guiding plate and the opening of the rear holder.

22. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine according to claim 20, wherein:

the illumination part includes a first light source for illuminating the symbols from a rear side, the first light source being disposed at the variable display device and a second light source for illuminating the symbols from a front side, the second light source being disposed at a periphery portion of a rear surface side of the opening of the rear holder; and

the first light source and the second light source illuminate the display window of the front display device through the openings of the light guiding plate and the rear holder.

~~disposed between a rear face of the light guiding plate and the variable display device, the illumination part for illuminating the symbols variably displayed on the variable display device so as to improve the visibility of the symbols displayed on the transparent liquid crystal display panel through the opening of the light guiding plate, the symbols having been variably displayed on the variable display device.~~

23. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine according to claim 20, wherein:

the rear holder has a function of reflecting on the transparent liquid crystal display panel, the light emitted from the light source to the lateral of the light guiding plate.

~~a reflection part disposed between the rear face of the light guiding plate and the variable display device, the reflection part for reflecting the light on the~~

~~transparent liquid crystal display panel, the light having been emitted from the light source to the light guiding plate,~~

~~the reflection part provided with an opening at a position opposed to the opening of the light guiding plate.~~